

## You're More Important than You Think!

A recent panel discussion on the importance of municipal elections reminded us that local government affects us more on a daily basis any other level of gov. We see reminders of this daily: our roads, garbage pick-up, water, signage, building activity, emergency services, public lighting, recreation facilities and a host of other amenities we sometimes take for granted. Municipal government is also largely responsible for how our villages look, where and how many green spaces there are for our enjoyment, and whether we can still fish in our creeks and canoe on our waterways, especially the world-famous Minesing Wetlands. Not to mention whether policies are farm-friendly so that we have local food to eat, and long-standing rural traditions and values are honoured. A lot of this comes down to local planning decisions.

In less than a year, Springwater voters will elect a new Council. Although the formal campaign is still far off, some incumbents and new candidates are already on the hunt for support. It's important for each of us to consider what matters most to us and to evaluate these would-be elected representatives accordingly. That means assessing their platforms and their character with YOUR goals in mind. And if they were elected last time, have they lived up to their campaign promises? Or have they let you down?

In the 2014 municipal election, the MRA endorsed 5 candidates who pledged to stop the proposed catastrophic mega-development of **TEN THOUSAND housing units** – the MSP. We subjected all candidates to an extensive questionnaire, which we combined with other key information to arrive at those endorsements. They were grateful for our support. But, as we only represent what YOU want, it's really YOUR SUPPORT that got all but one of them elected. We were just your mouthpiece.



*Lily receiving her loot from Board member Kevin Newman.*

Today, there's only ONE YEAR left for them to fulfill their pledge and **do the Right Thing**. Let's hope they do because Springwater voters are watching. That includes the MRA.

Autumnfest was a BIG success, and the MRA booth was busy all day. It was great to have an opportunity to tell more people that **the MSP is NOT A DONE DEAL!** Talk about fake news! And our Jelly Bean Jar contest was hugely popular. Beating 43 rivals, some of them Eastview students, was Lily Hancock, a 9 year old math whiz at Forest Hill. She beat her closest competitor by 1 jelly bean. Lily was thrilled to receive the prize of the jar itself and an MRA green T-shirt. Congratulations, Lily!

Don't forget to check out [www.friendsofmidhurst.ca](http://www.friendsofmidhurst.ca) for more information and an opportunity to make a donation. Although the Board works for nothing, our experts don't. THANKS!